

I oppose H.B. 5653

I rebuke placing a new excise tax on ammunition. There already are similar taxes on firearms and ammunition already. Stop taxing law abiding gun owners which would put burden on those who are of low income which would restrict exercising their 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights by implementing this bill would again only go after the people that are not committing these crimes. It is widely known that there was a lax in prosecution and enforcement in the last few years which has led to the latest increase in crime. After watching the mayors of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, as well as the leaders of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Gov. Lamont this past Tuesday it seems to me that they know what these issues are too, and this bill wants law abiding gun owner to front the bill. I am asking for this bill to be dissolved. Bad policies and the lack of enforcement is not a reason to penalize the law abiding. This bill is written in a way that could be amended in such a way that could be abused. Below I have some examples what was said this past Tuesday.

Chief State's Attorney Patrick Griffin said this quote "recent studies of the crimes in the state's largest cities found that around 70% of identified shooters and gun violence victims had previously been convicted of felonies. The sobering reality is that gun violence in Connecticut is largely driven by a small number of high-risk, repeat felony offenders in the 18- to 34-year-old range, they are doing the shooting and conversely, they are doing the dying in our cities year-in and year-out with nauseating consistency."

Mayor Elicker of New Haven said an overwhelming of violence is committed by a small group of people. These are people they have prior offenses or on bail and probation. He also said that most of

these offenders was either early released pretrial or probation. 59 % of people that fell victim to gun violence had prior felony records.

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